Excise duty evasion by ITC Ltd.

†2119. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of excise duty collected from the Cigarette Factories situated in North and Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that ITC and Godfrey Phillip India are involved in tax evasion;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being considered to be taken by Government against them; and

(d) if not, whether Government have taken/are considering to take any concrete steps to enquire into the accounts of those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The amount of excise duty collected from the cigarette factories in Western Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given below:—

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Rs. 1105.61 Cr.	Rs. 1205.55 Cr.	Rs. 1326.36 Cr.

There are no cigarette factories in North Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

(b), (c) and (d) Some cases of duty evasion have been detected against ITC Ltd. and Godfrey Phillip (I) Ltd., as per details given below:—

Company	No. of Cases	Duty Amount Involved
ITC Ltd.	21	Rs. 1122.62 Cr.
Godfrey Phillip (I) Ltd.	9	Rs. 67.57 Cr.

Whenever duty evasion is detected, the same is investigated and action is taken to recover the duty evaded and penalise as per law.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.